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# The University of Maine Student Expenses

University of Maine - Main

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The University of Maine

# STUDENT EXPENSES



ORONO, MAINE.

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE.

ORONO, MAINE.

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The University is a public institution founded by the State, supported chiefly by gifts from the United States government, and appropriations from the State. It is non-sectarian. Both men and women are admitted.

### THE COURSES OF STUDY.

The School of Law.

The Classical Course,

To be inaugurated in 1899.

The Latin Scientific Course.

The Scientific Course.

The Chemistry Course.

The Preparatory Medical Course.

The Agricultural Course.

The Short and Special Agricultural Courses.

The Pharmacy Course (four years).

The Short Pharmacy Course (two years).

The Civil Engineering Course.

The Mechanical Engineering Course.

The Electrical Engineering Course.

For catalogue address

President A. W. HARRIS.

## STUDENT EXPENSES.

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A college education is expensive,—so COLLEGE expensive that very few students could afford EDUCATION it if they were required to pay a fair price for EXPENSIVE. it. In practice the student pays but a small part of the cost. The older colleges, most of which are allied with some religious denomination, have been endowed with great gifts from men of wealth and piety, to pay the expenses the student cannot pay. Some of these funds provide for the tuition charges, and even personal expenses of needy students, but most of them are devoted to the general expenses of the college, and benefit rich and poor alike, and these funds constitute what is commonly known as the endowment. These gifts have been made with charitable and noble purposes, and are a testimony to the benevolence of our people and their faith in the value of higher education. American colleges report for the year 1898 endowments aggregating the astonishing sum of 135 millions of dollars. The state universities and colleges seldom have great endowments, but receive large annuities and appropriations from the general and state governments.

Higher education has grown more expensive in recent times. The increase is due RECENT chiefly to a change in the methods and sub- INCREASE IN EXPENSE. jects of college work. Not long ago, a college course meant four years of study, devoted almost entirely to Latin, Greek, Philosophy, and Mathematics, and when a college had lecture rooms, a library, and a faculty, it needed little more. There were few laboratories of any kind, and no expensive facilities, except in a few favored institutions. The cost of instruction was low, for the subjects taught were few; all students pursued the same studies, and

these were of such a character that one teacher could care for a large number of pupils. The elective system, which allows the student to select a part of his studies, from a larger number, has increased expenses. Now every college teaches many subjects, and each one of importance requires its own instructor, whether the number of students choosing it be large or small.

The introduction of scientific studies has involved a large expense for laboratories and facilities. As an example, chemistry requires not only the recitation rooms, library, and teachers, with which a department of Greek is satisfied, but in addition it must have laboratory rooms in which the student is provided with a large space, desk, apparatus, chemicals, gas, and water; and it must have special laboratory instructors to be constantly with the student and assist him in the use of these things.

Technical or engineering courses are the most expensive of all, for they require not only the equipment needed for the more general literary and scientific studies, but also the machinery, apparatus and instructors needed for field work and shop work.

THE STATE UNIVERSITIES. The elective system and extended instruction in science and engineering came almost within the last generation. The older colleges as a rule adopted the elective system early, but did not meet the demand for extended instruction in science and technology; often because they had not the necessary endowments, and often because they looked upon such education as a thing to be discouraged rather than helped. To meet the demand the general government and the states established colleges and universities as a part of the public school system.

EXPENSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE ARE LOW. Although the total cost of maintaining the state universities is high, student expenses on the contrary are low, partly because the government has been generous, and made fees very low, and partly because the standard of living is modest. When the State established the University of Maine, it directed the trustees to make the expenses of students as low as possible. It was hoped that many might support themselves by labor in the college shops and on the

farm; but this expectation proved vain. Few students can serve two masters.

The necessary expenses at the University of Maine are nevertheless low,—perhaps lower than at any other college in New England. For this fact, there are several reasons. In the first place Maine is a State of simple habits. All living expenses are low, and those of students with the rest. The estimated average expense of a student for one year, in the colleges of Massachusetts is \$421; of Connecticut is \$390; of Maine is \$212.

In the second place the charges at the State University are unusually low. The tuition fee is \$30. At other Maine colleges it ranges from \$50 to \$75; in the colleges of Massachusetts it averages \$137; in the colleges of Connecticut from \$50 to \$155; at three technical schools in the state of Massachusetts, and one in the state of Connecticut it is \$200, \$200, \$150, and \$150 respectively. Other charges are low at Orono. Laboratory fees are only enough to cover the cost of the materials consumed and the apparatus destroyed by the student.

ENDOWMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE. To maintain its work with such small charges, the University receives annually for purposes of instruction an annuity from the general government, appropriations from the State, and interest on endowments which together give an income equivalent to the product of an endowment of \$1,200,000. This does not take into account the Experiment Station. Of the total income of the University, less than one-fifth comes from the students.

THE COST TO THE STUDENT. The annual expense to the student varies according to his habits and tastes. A few years ago, a student completed a course of four years at a cost of \$75 in excess of his earnings. One student went through the last college year at a gross cost of a little more than \$100. But these are extreme cases. The first man was one of uncommon ability, who devoted a large part of his time to teaching and other remunerative work. The second boarded himself. Both avoided those small expenses not absolutely necessary, which count up to so unexpected a sum, but which furnish a great part of our comfort and pleasure. Few can equal these records. Many students go through college for an annual expenditure of a little more

than \$200, exclusive of clothing, traveling, and vacations. A census of a senior class, taken a few years ago, showed that those who had kept accurate accounts of their expenditures,—presumably those who were most careful in spending, but by no means the poorest members of their class—spent about \$200 a year. It is safe to assume that with careful economy a student can complete a year for \$250. He will, however, be more comfortable and may get more from his course if his allowance is more liberal.

An estimate of the necessary student expenses may be made from the table given below. An allowance must be made for personal and incidental expenses. During the first year, expenses are likely to be somewhat higher than afterwards. In the School of Law the tuition fee is \$30 a term, or \$60 a year, payable in cash, invariably in advance. The diploma fee is \$10. There are no other fees. In other departments the fees are as given in the table.

#### ANNUAL STUDENT EXPENSES.

Tuition, 2 terms at \$15.00.....	\$30 00
Registration fee, 2 terms at \$5.00.....	10 00
Incidentals, 2 terms at \$10.00.....	20 00
Laboratory fees, average, about.....	8 00
Text-books, about .....	15 00
Board, 34 weeks at \$3.00.....	102 00
Heat and light for half room, and general care of dormitory, about .....	15 00
Total .....	\$200 00

A tuition charge was imposed by the legislature of 1897 as a means of providing for the increasing expenses of the University. The charge is \$30 a year, or \$15 for each of the two terms into which the year is divided; and is to be paid by all students, except those in the short winter courses in agriculture. Loans covering tuition will be granted to needy students who are residents of the State and show themselves deserving of help. A registration fee of \$5, to be paid at the beginning of each term before the student enters his classes, and an incidental fee of \$10 a

term, provide for the heating and lighting of buildings, the care and cleaning of recitation and other public rooms, etc. These are required of all students except those in the winter courses.

Students in the laboratories and shops pay a small charge, to cover cost of materials and maintenance. The charges are as follows:—biology, per term, \$1.00; chemistry, per term, about \$3.00; bacteriology, per course, \$3.00; physics, per course, \$2.00; pharmacy, per term, about \$3.50; mineralogy, \$2.00; natural history, per course, \$2.00; electrical engineering, per course, \$2.50; shop, per course, \$5.00. Students in elementary botany furnish their own instruments. Laboratory charges in the civil engineering course are very few, but traveling expenses in visiting engineering works will be nearly equivalent to the laboratory expenses of other courses.

The largest item of expense is for board. At the Commons, the University boarding house, each student pays his share of the cost. Until within a year the price has been \$2.75 a week, but owing to higher prices for supplies it has increased to \$3. It may be expected to decrease as prices fall. An occasional student boards himself at a very small cost, but this plan is not to be recommended unless necessity requires it. Some boarding houses in the village furnish board at a lower price than the Commons, but most of them charge from \$3.00 to \$3.25 a week.

Unfurnished rooms in the dormitory are free. The students supply their furniture, pay for heat and light, for the care of the halls and public rooms and for damages. The expense for these items is about \$15 a year for each student. The number of rooms is sufficient for about one-third of the whole number of students. Another third live in the society club houses, where the cost of living is slightly, but only slightly, higher than in the dormitory. Other students live in private homes near the campus, or in the villages of Orono, and Stillwater. A large private dormitory recently built on land adjoining the campus furnishes good accommodations for about 30 students, at reasonable prices. Freshmen must usually find rooms off the campus. The cost is about the same as in the dormitory, and sometimes less.



Furnished rooms, with light and heat, may be obtained in the village for \$1.50 a week if occupied by one person, or \$2.00 a week if occupied by two persons. The lowest rate for board and furnished room with light and heat, in a private family is \$3.25 a week for each of two persons occupying one room.

On alternate years students spend a week in MILITARY camp at a distance from Orono, for military EXPENSES. instruction. The expense is borne partly by the University, and partly by the students. The additional expense to the student is about \$2.50.

Each student must supply himself with a military uniform, at a cost varying from \$12 to \$18. This is not an additional expense, as the uniform takes the place of a civilian suit, and is obtained at prices fixed from time to time by competitive bids, much below the usual cost of goods of similar quality.

TEXT-BOOKS AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES. The expense for text-books will average almost exactly \$15.00 a year. These may be bought from the librarian at cost, but must be paid for on delivery. The expense can be decreased by buying second-hand books and selling them when used.

Students in the engineering courses must provide a set of drawing instruments, costing from \$13.00 to \$20.00.

Membership in fraternities involves an expense; the amount is not known accurately, but cannot be large. Athletic enterprises are supported in part by voluntary student subscriptions. The most common subscription for athletics is about \$2.70 a term, but many subscriptions are smaller. An allowance must be made for washing, street car fares, stationery, and other small personal expenses.

THE KITTREDGE LOAN FUND. The Kittredge Loan Fund was established by Nehemiah Kittredge of Bangor for the aid of needy students. It is in the control of the President and Treasurer of the University. It furnishes loans for seniors who need assistance in completing their course. The maximum loan is one hundred dollars, to be repaid in three annual installments after leaving college, with the privilege of earlier payment. The security demanded is a note bearing six per cent interest.

TUITION LOANS. In accordance with the act of the legislature imposing a tuition fee, worthy students, who are residents of Maine and need assistance, may borrow from the University treasury a sum sufficient to pay the tuition charge. Borrowers are required to give endorsed notes or other satisfactory security. The loans bear interest at six per cent per annum, and are due \$30.00 a year beginning with the first year after graduation, but may be paid earlier. No member of the faculty is accepted as endorser.

Loans are granted by a committee consisting of the President and two other members of the faculty. The number of loans may not exceed one-third of the number of students in attendance. Loans are granted to cover the tuition charges of only one year at a time. The first grant of loans for each university year is made in the month of June preceding. Applications for loans are considered during May, and to insure attention at this time should be forwarded to the President not later than May 15. A second award is made in the fall term. Applications should be made not later than October 10. Applications must be made to the President upon blanks to be obtained from the Secretary of the faculty. Awards made in June may be withdrawn from students who do not register or claim their loans on or before October 10. Prospective students who desire loans may apply to the President of the University by letter at any time.

GENERAL LOANS. The University makes no other loans. A few students have obtained loans from public spirited men in Bangor and Orono, but the opportunities are few. Many students borrow money at their homes where they are known. The security given is usually a note secured by a life insurance policy to cover the risk of death.

SELF HELP. Many students pay part of their expenses, and some a large part, from their earnings. Their work is usually done in the vacations, but sometimes during term time. Most of the opportunities for work in term time, about the college and in the village, are taken by upper class men; but it is seldom that a student who is willing and efficient fails to find as much work as he has time for, by the end of the first year of his residence in college.

Some students stay out of college a part of term time to teach or follow other employments. Time spent in teaching is not to be counted as entirely lost, for it brings its own drill. As a general statement, work which takes the student from his studies is not recommended; but when it is imperative the University will give the student every assistance in finding it, and in reducing as much as possible the disadvantages it may cause.

The work which students find during term time includes waiting upon the tables at the Commons and club houses, clerical work, testing seeds, herbarium and museum work, acting as assistant in the laboratories and library, care of electric lights, caring for fires, shop work, janitor work, carrying the mail, work on the grounds, serving as monitor, caring for the newspaper reading-room, etc.

Students conduct a store for the sale of stationery, drawing instruments, etc., act as agents for clothing firms, uniform makers, laundrymen, badge makers, shoe dealers, etc.

It must be remembered that the best opportunities are taken by upper class men, and few chances are open to freshmen in their first term. One of the hardest but most necessary ways of getting work is to wait for it.

The University will give every assistance to those who are seeking employment, but cannot promise either to give work, or to find it for them. Success in finding must depend largely upon the student. A young woman, a member of the last freshman class, found an opportunity to earn her board within an hour after registering, and a young man in the same class found a similar opportunity almost as quickly. Both began their hunt after the college officers thought every chance had been taken. Those who wish work will do well to write to the secretary, but must not be discouraged if they receive few suggestions.

The number of students who work during vacation is much larger than the number who work in term time. The employments they find include teaching; selling books and various household articles; canvassing cities for information for directories; clerking; keeping books; photography; machine work; surveying, and engineering work; clerical work; carpentering; care of engines; collecting botanical specimens, etc. The work

is usually found at or near the student's home, through his own exertions, or the help of his friends.

Sometime ago the students were asked for a statement in regard to the work which they had done, and the amount they had earned. The following statements are taken from the replies, and represent them fairly.

A; two years in college; earned \$125 during term time by carrying mail, sawing wood, and in janitor work; earned \$41 in vacation; obtained work by applying to the college secretary.

B; in college four years; earned in term time \$56 by waiting on tables, \$57 by wiring for electrical lights and \$91 by odd jobs; worked on his father's farm during vacation; earned \$35 by other work. B "would not recommend work to excess. It requires a great deal of time which would be more valuable for study if used properly. Too much work unfits one for study."

C; earned from \$1.00 to \$2.00 a day during vacations by an advertising scheme.

D; one year in college; made \$113 teaching school, selling fountain pens, and making photographs.

E; earned \$110 in one vacation as bookkeeper.

F; earned \$200 as fireman on a railroad; earned \$70 during one winter as machinist; applied for work and got it just before the term closed.

G; three years in college; earned \$184 teaching, partly in term time, and partly in vacation; earned \$13 copying notes, but was obliged to take time from his studies; earned \$75 as civil engineer during one vacation; found work by inquiring through friends.

H; earned \$175 by canvassing 80 days in three vacations.

I; four years in college; earned \$75 during term time by waiting on tables, janitor work, etc.; earned \$322 in vacations by work on steamboat, cutting ice, canvassing, and mill work.

J; earned \$105 in one vacation teaching school.

K; earned \$125 teaching school, but was obliged to stay out of college five weeks.

L; one year in college; earned \$114.50 as assistant to a civil engineer and by teaching school.

M; earned \$40 waiting on tables during term time, and \$285 in five vacations in store work, teaching and canvassing.

N; pharmacy student; one year in college; earned \$18.90 during term time by work in the laboratory and selling medicines; earned \$42 during vacation as drug clerk.

O; earned \$742 during vacation as an interpreter.

P; four years in college; earned \$600 during term time as life insurance agent, by selling various articles to students, and by miscellaneous work; earned \$300 during vacations, most of it by teaching; was unable to work several vacations on account of poor health.

One of the reasons for founding the University of Maine was the desire to open to the boy of limited means the opportunity to get a college education. The cost of a year at the State University need not exceed \$250 for all objects except clothes, traveling, and vacations; by care it may be reduced to \$200; \$300 is a very comfortable allowance. The net expense may be decreased by earnings. Loans may be obtained to pay the tuition fee, and for general expenses in finishing the senior year.

A student suffers no loss of standing in college because he is poor, or works his way.

A bright boy can find no employment so profitable as attending college. The training and knowledge obtained in college constitute a capital which returns a high rate of profit during a whole life.

Money borrowed for an education is like borrowed seed corn, to be repaid from its own product.

The time of life at which a boy goes to college is the time when he learns most with the least effort, and earns least with the most effort.